

SENATE BILL 1361

By Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary  
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by  
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 49-4-9\_\_\_\_

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE ADVANCED DEGREE scholarship, a  
student shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Have been eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship pursuant to § 49-4-  
905;

(3) Have maintained eligibility for a HOPE scholarship pursuant to § 49-4-  
911, or have been eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship as a transfer student  
pursuant to § 49-4-911;

(4) Be admitted to and enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution, as  
a full-time student seeking an advanced degree, no later than sixteen (16)  
months after receiving a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited  
postsecondary institution; and

(5) Apply for a Tennessee HOPE ADVANCED DEGREE scholarship.

(b) A student may receive a Tennessee HOPE ADVANCED DEGREE  
scholarship until the first of the following events:

(1) The student has earned an advanced degree;

(2) The student has attempted at any postsecondary institution a total of ninety (90) semester hours in any advanced degree program;

(3) Four (4) years have passed from the date of the student's initial enrollment in any advanced degree program at any postsecondary institution;

(4) The student fails, for two consecutive semesters, to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 in the program of study; or,

(5) The student has a break in enrollment at an eligible postsecondary institution of more than twelve (12) months.

(c) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a Tennessee HOPE ADVANCED DEGREE scholarship awarded to a full-time student shall be eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) per year. The total amount of a Tennessee HOPE ADVANCED DEGREE scholarship shall not exceed twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000).

(d) No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE ADVANCED DEGREE scholarship shall be made under this section.

(e) Scholarships awarded under this section shall not commence prior to fall semester, 2007.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.